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## Through the eyes of a polyhistor / Conversation with Miklós Kásler

“Until I had met Professor Kásler I thought the time of polyhistorians had been over, that with the arrival of the 21<sup>st</sup> century they had said their goodbyes, became but memories for once and for all, as did the noble gallants of centuries long gone. Or perhaps they had just gone out of style, since these days it is rare to come across literacy in the classical sense of the word. But to be able to simultaneously discuss history, literature, faith or even medicine with a person, and not just on the level of clichés? Unrealistic. But it is true and reality has never been brought forward more clearly from the unrealistic half-light. Miklós Kásler is a man of the present and his approach is the promise of the future.”

Miklós Kásler, *oncologist, university professor, director-general of the National Institute of Oncology, non-professional historian, honorary citizen of Budapest and Sárovar, Minister of the Ministry of Human Capacities from 2018*

*I must admit, Professor, that when I first faced the fact that you have received your first grade 4<sup>24</sup> at the age of twenty for an anatomy exam I felt myself becoming smaller and smaller. In secondary school, you already reached first through third places in mathematics, history, and biology competitions. If you had chosen humanities, you would not have*

24 The grading in Hungarian schools goes from 1 through 5, 5 being the best. Grade 4 would be the equivalent of a grade B in an English school.

*had to take an entrance exam to university. Your father was a lawyer, why did you choose medicine?*

I've always wanted to become a doctor ever since I can remember. In grammar school, there was no biology competition in that particular year so I participated in history. The consequence of it was that I wouldn't have had to take an entrance exam if I wanted to study law or archaeology, so basically anything that required history as an entrance exam subject. But eventually I received a ministerial diploma at the biology secondary school competition that was awarded to those who had finished at one of the first ten places, so eventually I got into medical school easily.

*What was your motivation?*

Father was from Transylvania<sup>25</sup> and wanted to become a doctor himself, but, although few people know, *numerus clausus*<sup>26</sup> was in effect at the time in Romania as well, and it was enforced to the disadvantage of Hungarians. So, he did not have the opportunity to go to medical school, that is why he applied to law school. Actually, as a recipient of the Hungarian Community scholarship he would have had the opportunity to go to the University of Brescia in Italy but he declined it. As a matter of fact, I have found out much later from one of his former classmates that he said that he had preferred that three Hungarian university students got a degree in Kolozsvár using the scholarship that was offered to him. That is how he became a lawyer. I, on the other hand, wasn't tempted by law, in fact, my parents had one request only, that I'd only become a lawyer if I had a particular affection towards that career.

*Why?*

I assume because of father's experiences. He wasn't just searching for the letters of the law, but for truth, and at that time that wasn't particularly desirable. On the one hand, he was a man with deeply rooted religious faith and he was always in perfect harmony with his own conscience, that is with himself; and on the other hand, he always returned a just verdict. I will never forget, back in '56 someone in a quilted coat<sup>27</sup> drove away a kind peasant man's pig who then reported him and my father ruled that he had to get his pig back. Following this incident, he had to go to Szombathely week after week for years to report to the chairman of the county courthouse about how he had lived, what he had done. He never received an award, never got promoted, he wasn't allowed to be a member of the bar; so that's how he lived his life. It was also in the favor of the medical field that my maternal grandmother died when I was 17 years old and her loss was a very difficult experience for me, that I couldn't do anything to help, I didn't know how, I wasn't a doctor.

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25 Area of the historic Hungary that belongs to Romania since the peace dictate of Trianon closing World War I.

26 The meaning of the expression is „closed number.” It is a method used to limit the number of students who may study sought-after areas at a university. Most famously known to have been applied to limit the number of Jewish students in fields where they were already over-represented, but it was actually widely applied against other minority groups as well.

27 People in quilted coats was a common expression to use for armed individuals who played an active role in beating down the revolution of 1956 and in consolidating the Kádár-system.



*You lived and worked in Germany between 1988 and 1990 as the recipient of the Humboldt scholarship. What experiences did you bring home?*

Behind Heidelberg, the University of Erlangen was the second best university in Germany at the time; head-neck surgery was done at an exceptionally high level. The first such ward in Hungary was established here at the National Institute of Oncology, and for about 15-20 years there wasn't another one set up anywhere else. By the way, when I got to Erlangen at the age of 38, I didn't feel like any German would have been better prepared than I was.

*In what sense was it more, better, or different?*

We had all the necessary equipment at home as well, but while we had one *Olympos*<sup>28</sup> endoscope – the tool used to look at the inside of the larynx – for the entire ward, in Erlangen there was one next to each examination chair. The difference was in quantity, not quality. Besides, the head-office of Siemens was in Erlangen, therefore the CT and other diagnostic imaging developments took place at the various clinics of the university. One of my colleagues would invite me over from time to time so I had the opportunity to see how the machine constructions and software were being made. At the time, the most current instruments had arrived to us with a 3-4-year delay, but later this difference practically disappeared.

*Was the treatment structure also different?*

Yes, once I made an ironic comment that I would send the youngsters there so they see what they should not learn. Among other things, the remark referred to the mechanical treatment method that is now called *healthcare services*. In this situation, the conduct between the doctor and the patient resembles the relationship between the shop assistant and the customer.

*This might have deeper roots in a society, though.*

It is the direction the euro-Atlantic world has taken. How should I put this? I don't want to allude to the existentialists, nor to the lack of human kindness, but undoubtedly, social relations and movements are transposed onto – or as they used to say –, encircle medicine as well, influencing human relations in this setting. For instance, in Erlangen colleagues of the same age addressed each other formally. They didn't know much about each other, whether the other person had a family, children, or lived alone, and this sense of distance characterized the relationship between the patient and the doctor, too. There were no long conversations, which is an organic part of the Hungarian tradition. Instead, they very squarely and precisely explained what the issue was, what the next step was about to be, then they carried it all out very systematically, everyone did their own sub task and never saw the patient again.

*How did the patients feel about this?*

This was natural for them; such was the way it has evolved. But it didn't happen on command, neither did in Hungary. Regrettably however, since the '90s it has been my ex-

<sup>28</sup> Brand of medical equipments.

perience at home that the expression “healthcare services” is used so frequently that the doctor-patient relationship is becoming just that. Although, if anything is based on an exceptional level of trust, it is the doctor-patient relationship, as one person trusts the other with their health, or life. It is very difficult to do this right without empathy. Obviously, the other extreme is also unfortunate; it is not good to fully identify with the patient. A surgeon, if emotionally involved, may not be able to finish a major extensive surgery. At the moment, patient satisfaction is above 90% in the National Institute of Oncology and 97% of the patients would recommend us to their relatives; the reason for this is our attitude. The patient is always right, it is the fundamental rule. If they are not right, they are still right, since everyone who is told that they have cancer enter a very special spiritual state. Their reactions are different; in that horrifying situation they might do things they would never do in their civil lives. Those who don’t acknowledge this are not good doctors.

*Has the Hungarian people’s attitude towards cancer changed?*

The change is two-way, one impacted the doctors whose attitudes shifted, the other relates to the patients’ awareness who are much better informed about cancer today than they used to be, say, 25 years ago. When I was a university student cancer equaled to death. Nobody went on to become an oncologist, most of them who ended up as oncologists were gynecologists, who didn’t go on with gynecology for some reason. Oncology was not taught at the universities, either; there was only one oncology department in the Institute until the beginning of the ‘90s. The doctors were reluctant to deal with cancer patients, since they were doomed to die anyway. Then later when improvements in all fields of diagnostics and therapy have become exceptionally spectacular, more and more individuals began choosing this specialty.

*What about prevention? Many people don’t consider screenings to be evident, even today.*

Cancer still has a very bad reputation, but it is no longer equated with death. Day and night, we keep talking about the importance of prevention, about what primary and secondary prevention means. We also keep saying everywhere that 72-73% of all breast cancer patients and practically all testicular cancer patients heal once and for all. Regardless, people fear finding out that, God forbid, they may have cancer. Primary prevention means that we eliminate carcinogenic factors from our lives. These mostly belong under the authority of legislation, emission of exhaust fumes, food preservatives, water, air and soil pollution and other factors. Then there are many things that the individual can do, since smoking, alcoholism, these two together, excess weight, eating habits are all risk factors. For example, it turned out that HPV (*human papillomavirus – editor*) doesn’t only cause cervical cancer, but transmitted sexually it may also cause cancer of the oral cavity, the larynx, the pharynx and the esophagus, the colon, and the anus. Therefore, lifestyle has a key role. This is primary prevention. I definitely sense a level of improvement; the laws created with regard to smoking are very favorable. I think these things always resemble a sinus curve, which starts from very deep, then first it gets a bit whirled up and finally it settles down at a satisfactory level and that’s where we are today. Healthy eating habits have definitely come into prominence, many statutes have appeared in relation to it favoring the use of bio products, giving preference to Hungarian products and so on.



*What about the objectionable foodstuff arriving from the European Union?*

The government stepping up in the interest of the population is absolutely correct, because indeed, they do not sell the same foodstuff here as they do there. If I had to describe the situation using legal terminology, I would say that this could be classified as premeditated abuse of health. But to return to prevention, its other form is participating in screenings. It is called secondary prevention. We have three organs that can be screened on the level of the entire population. The practice is the same all around the world. These are cervical cancer, breast cancer, and colon and anal cancer. There has been an unfortunate debate about the method of colon and anal cancer screening although this quarrel has been decided 20 years ago in the Western part of the world. The method used for the screening shouldn't be painful since healthy individuals are being tested – or at least, as far as they know they are healthy – and they go voluntarily. So, it cannot be painful or dangerous. And colonoscopy, however precise, effective, and high its security of exact hit is, may be quite painful on occasion and the wall of the colon may get punctured. So, the method used now is the following: should any component of human blood be detected in fecal matter, the patient needs to be thoroughly examined to check if the source of the bleeding or leaking is an ulcerated tumor somewhere in the digestive tract. Now, considering that even an ulcerated tumor doesn't bleed continuously, the test must be repeated on three consecutive days. And if suspicion is raised then we can do a colonoscopy and all the other diagnostic tests in order to confirm whether it is a tumor – and if it is we start treating it –, or to rule out the existence of a tumor. Thank the Lord, the current government has finally closed the debate and at the moment it seems that colon cancer screening is finally about to begin.

*The people who are anxious about the screenings, do you think they are they afraid of the screening itself or rather the result?*

They're afraid of the result. They are scared that they may have cancer. Here is where the lack of knowledge that sets us apart from the Western countries, primarily from Scandinavians, is palpable. There, people have already understood it that the earlier stage the disease is in at the time of diagnosis, the better the results of cure are. They don't keep putting the screening off; they get over it as soon as possible, since the goal is to get healthy. I always bring up laryngeal cancer as an example, which has a 96-97% success rate of complete healing, whether treated with laser, radiation, or conventional surgery. The same cancer, if caught at a more advanced stage, can be healed at around a 20-25% success rate along with its metastasis in the neck. This difference is insane.

*Are you skeptical about alternative treatment options?*

I'm not skeptical; I'm just a realist.

*Has the population's attitude changed in the past years? Unfortunately, we often see it happen that people don't get treated in time, instead they turn to alternative treatment methods and when they finally get here to the Institute, it's too late.*

I would ban the expression, itself. Since if there were an alternative, medicine would certainly be using it. Oncology uses tremendous amounts of drugs, including combina-

tions of them, plus various forms of radiation therapy, and of course surgical methods. The combined application of all these accounts for hundreds of treatment options. So, if there were another one or two alternatives the oncologists would certainly include them in their repertoire.

*The expression “alternative” is indeed misleading, especially if we add therapy after it.*

It would be much more comfortable for the doctor to suggest that the patient drinks tea or beetroot juice or whatever else, since obviously chemotherapy is very hard on the patient, while he or she may actually enjoy beetroot juice. If the doctor knows, if it's evident that there are clinical trials and clear results backing up a certain substance, proving that it works and it can be classified as medication then yes, it can be an alternative. Otherwise, no.

*Have there been products that were proven to be particularly harmful? Because being useless is one thing, but what if it actually causes harm?*

Well, just think back to the *Contergan*<sup>29</sup> babies, when at the end of the '50s, especially in Germany, many children were born missing a limb. It happened exactly because that long series of trials were not done that could have examined whether this drug had caused developmental disorders, any kind of embryonic disturbances, pediatric cancer and so forth. So, it was exactly the story of *Contergan* that has changed the course of drug testing and replaced the old, more lenient process with an exceptionally rigorous one that all new drugs need to go through today. This has multiple levels. The first level of evidence means that conclusions are drawn based on the treatment of a lot of patients who were premeditatedly and randomly selected. The last level of evidence is the so-called anecdotal evidence, which means that somebody saw something somewhere some time. Alternative things usually work like this; they might reach this last level of evidence. One typical example is that someone drinks the “magic potion” and heals from it. But what happened previously? They had surgery and radiation. But that doesn't matter to them, just the well-advertised product. I would like to mention one more thing. Since we are a national institution it is our job to examine every new method, so people visit me on a weekly basis; all of them discovered the cure for cancer, it's been going on for 25 years. I always tell them that we are more than willing to do the line of tests, as it is the one thing I've been waiting for - that a Hungarian discovers the cure for at least one of the 250 different types of cancer. I tell them that we would do the required tests as they are supposed to be done and we would publish the end results whether it is favorable or not. At this point they thank us kindly for the opportunity, leave and never come back because if we were to publish a non-favorable result then their business would go down.

*Would it be possible to sanction these attempts more severely?*

I tried; there was a commercial television channel where such shows were being aired continuously. I explained to the owners that what they do is essentially the premeditated

29 A drug called *Contergan* entered the market in 1957 as an over-the-counter medication with sedative, anti-nausea and painkilling effects. In the second half of 1958 the number of babies born with missing or atrophied limbs increased dramatically and it was later proven that the active agent of the drug, thalidomide hinders the development of veins and arteries in fetuses.



abuse of other people's health. But I could even call it murder because many people seized the opportunity and went to a point from where they really could not be brought back and treated. Then the person in charge told me that the individual pays so much for the airtime that both he and the channel needed that kind of money. But here is another incident; at the beginning of the '90s I went to see the president of the public television at the time. The commercial for a "clean, dry sensation"<sup>30</sup> ran every 5 minutes in that period which was particularly frustrating. I told him that instead of every tenth repetition of the commercial we would like to air a 5-10 second advertisement in which a hoarse voice says, "if your voice has been hoarse for a month, go to an otolaryngologist<sup>31</sup> to avoid having laryngeal cancer!" This would only have been ten seconds. The gentleman said that it could be absolutely done; it would cost 10 million forints. I asked him, "Who's paying it?" He said, "You, of course." It was the president of the public television that said that right into my eyes. But I tried at the state secretary of education as well, I asked them to include at least the basics in the curriculum.

*It's an ethical question.*

I agree. Unfortunately, no breakthrough has been accomplished in this area, although, the awareness of the nation is significantly better than it was 25 years ago.

*Since we are at the awareness of the nation, let's talk a bit about the book series you have edited, called 'National Ward-Walk', the closing 6<sup>th</sup> volume of which has just been published not too long ago. Prior to this, 85 episodes were broadcast on television and on the radio. During the episodes, you conversed with representatives of various branches of science about the fatal questions of Hungary. What was the motivation behind this series that spun over so many areas of science?*

The interesting thing in this project was exactly that we attempted to approach the same question from multiple directions. It's the same in oncology, in order to determine the ideal course of treatment for the patient six or seven doctor sit together and each add their own knowledge to figure out the most favorable plan. That's where the idea came from, because you can't just view things through the eyes of a historian. There are so many motivational factors. For example, in case of wars there's the question of logistics, if the soldier has no food to eat he won't be able to fight. Or there's the issue if dysentery. If there's no adequate drinking water, the troops will fall apart. But there are millions of other aspects and I always like seeing the backhand of things. In history, too, I'm not interested in what happened on a given day, but the motivations, the whys.

*The process itself?*

Yes, and the consequences, of course, which are just as important. I'm interested in the sinking streams, when a certain idea appears, then disappears and after a long time it comes up again to enfold nicely, but it repeats itself. József Antall<sup>32</sup> borrowed the idea

30 A slogan used in an advertisement for a menstruation pad.

31 Ear, nose and throat doctor.

32 József Antall (1932-1993) was the first democratically elected prime minister of Hungary (1989-1993) after the fall of communism.

of the Visegrád Four<sup>33</sup> from Charles Robert<sup>34</sup>. Few people know that initially it was a specifically anti-Austrian coalition including the Bavarian palatine, the Polish, Czech and Hungarian kings. The life of a human being, as well as history, is built up similarly to a panel structure. So, things are repeated but there are always certain differences. And if somebody recognizes these differences and then is able to incorporate them into their decisions that person is truly a great politician.

*Do you think that the common threat can be a strong enough leaven between the V4 to somehow function as a healing balm for the scars of Trianon?*

The first thing I would like to note about Trianon is that it was illegal. The victor states created a country that seemed to be inviable, and on top of it, they placed it under a complete economical and political blockade. I don't know why nobody talks or writes about this, but in 1920 the reds<sup>35</sup> who have fled made arrangements hand in hand with the Western European unions that Hungary ought to be closed off from all kinds of commerce on the Danube and at the borders, complete boycott. Then Horthy<sup>36</sup> announced that grain shipments toward Vienna were to halt. The blockade started at eight in the morning and it was lifted by noon. Later Hungary broke the economic, then the political blockade apart. Our country regained part of its territory and population by entirely peaceful means and with international guarantees, including that of the English and the French. Besides, Hungary began to create an incredible intellectual production, whether we consider representatives in the area of literature, music, biology or other natural sciences. So, both intellectually and physically this nation has given such an enormously powerful response to Trianon that it gave rise to a complete shock. That's how the country accomplished revision<sup>37</sup> by peaceful means, because it stayed alive, it showed – maimed as it was – what it was worth, that it was right, that it had the right to life. That it doesn't just have a past, but a future, too.

*There was, without a doubt, complete social consensus regarding revision. Only those like to forget about this fact who tend to grab onto and focus on a single sentence to describe the Horthy era as hell on Earth.*

Even the Peace Party supported revision, headed by János Kádár. So, the national unity was really complete. However, on March 19, 1944 Hungary lost most of her sovereignty.

*The day the German troops entered Hungary.*

Yes. So, the assessment after this day is different from what it was before. Otherwise, one single law should have been made in 1990; that all statues created during the dictatorships – from March 19, 1944 to the day of the 1990 elections – ought to be annulled. The 1,000 years old Hungarian legal continuity should have been restored; the backbone

33 Cultural and political alliance of four Central European states, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. Often abbreviated as V4.

34 Charles Robert (1288-1342) was the king of Hungary and Croatia between 1301/08 and 1342.

35 Term used for communists.

36 Miklós Horthy (1868-1957) was a Hungarian admiral and statesman who served as regent/governor of Hungary between 1920 and 1944.

37 In this context, the term 'revision' is used as a short version for revision of decisions included in the Trianon peace dictate.



of that system, no matter what anyone says, is the notion of the Holy Crown; the blood treaty, the laws of Saint Stephen, the laws of Béla III, the laws of the Anjou's, Werbőczy's *Tripartitum* and so on.<sup>38</sup> All these belong to the notion of the Holy Crown, which is the most perfect legal system in the world. The post-Trianon Hungarian Kingdom, lacking a king, was also the country of the Holy Crown, as well as the territories that were cut off. Clearly, it's not that practical to emphasize these things politically at the moment. Why? Because the rights of the Holy Crown are eternal rights. And while the Holy Crown may get into a situation when it can't practice its rights, but that still doesn't mean that it had lost its rights.

*I think in today's context this is unlikely to be an option.*

Sure, it is not timely now, but it is very important that it's included in the Constitution in the form of a very definite remark. Why couldn't the old, straightforward development of Hungarian law be restored in 20 or 50 years? Looking at the migrant situation and the changing circumstances of history, the time may come.

*Károly Szerencsés thinks that those who overwrote the calm, constructive will of the people in Hungary always came from abroad armed with money and weapons. In 1918, in 1944, in 1949 and in 1956, as well. Do you think that this may happen again? And viewing the broader picture, what direction is Europe – or to be more exact, the currently reigning Union – going to?*

I agree with Karcsi Szerencsés in nearly everything, but once I told him that there are certain situations when there's nothing that can be done, and by that I referred exactly to the era before the soviet republic, to the Károlyi leadership. Karcsi replied then that something could be done in all situations. I thought long and hard about this and I've come to realize that he was right, it is indeed so. As to the current situation, I see war going on in Europe, although it is not fought with the traditional tools, it is not even a cold war; this fight rather resembles the clash of civilizations as explained by Huntington. (*The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order by Samuel P. Huntington, 1996 - editor*) 20 years after the death of Muhammad Islam conquered areas in the basin of the Mediterranean Sea that belonged to the Byzantine Empire, from Asia Minor all the way to Morocco. Then they attacked Hispania, Sicily, Italy, the Balkans and finally, Central Europe. In 1,400 years, they fought 1,540 larger battles against Christian countries, 80% of these took place in Europe. From among the Hungarian battles only eight or ten are included in this 1,540. In Spain, there was a significant battle in every two or three years. So why does anybody think that Islam has changed? Have they announced doing-away with jihad? So, I also feel that there is an escalation, the situation is very bizarre and it's difficult to orient ourselves. The strategic opponent of the unbelievably developing China is Russia because of Siberia. Tactically, there is a Chinese-Russian coexistence since the Russians are locked out of Europe now. We don't know what say India will have in all this as they are also rising steeply. And since America is more likely to focus on America than on Europe without Great Britain, what can Europe do? In 1990, Joschka Fischer (*German politician, foreign minister - editor*) said about Germany that it is too big for Europe, but too small for the

38 Emblematic stations of the development of Hungarian law.

world. But it isn't good either if the Germans scalp the continent economy-wise because that would lead to losing the balance of power and politics. So, what I can tell you is that the key to the future of Europe is creating a unity of nation states. The relationship with Russia ought to be sorted somehow. Regrettably, people don't sense the difference between the Soviet Union and Russia, even though the soviets terrorized the Russian people for 80 years, exactly twice as long as they terrorized the others or us. So, if anyone is truly fed up with Bolshevism, it's the Russians. Russia is a superpower that represents her own interests and they should be negotiated with accordingly. Regarding redrawing societies, let's just say that political, religious, or cultural identities cannot be exported to other countries, it just doesn't work, there's no successful example of it in the course of history.

*Do you think that a fault-line may emerge in Europe along a vertical axis?*

The current developments foreshadow that mentally the Western part of Europe is going to a different direction than the Eastern part is. My only fear is that if Russia becomes too powerful, it might grow above Europe. However, Europe has such an advantage both technologically and scientifically that this situation may only come about a long, long time from now, and by that time the Chinese-Russian opposition would become quite taut.

*What about the masses that are flooding in now?*

It cannot be allowed; it's a matter of life and death. The question is about survival, in a physical sense as well.

*If all borders were closed right this second, demography would still be working against us. This statement is increasingly true regarding Western Europe, considering the size of the muslim population that already lives there.*

This should be changed; both the spiritual and material background of the situation ought to be sorted. Traditional human values, relationships, family, child raising have all lost their values in the secularized countries. No matter where you look, all you see is people chasing money, power and pleasure. Of course, they don't care about the family. But I would like to add that despite all strokes of fate the population of Hungary has gone through a thirty fold increase in 1,100 years and no other European nation has achieved this level of growth. So, this story is not about Hungarians who do not want to have large families, it seems that rather their spiritual motivation may have become stale, and their material opportunities are not in sync with having many children, either.

*Those 40 years of the communist, socialist "building operation" have negatively impacted the people's frame of mind.*

Certainly, this was the greatest sin of communism, the mental destruction. The role of education is extraordinary in the present, but we shouldn't just educate, we also need to discipline and that's the key question. I absolutely support that ethics and religion are taught in schools again. If somebody is lacking knowledge of something then clearly, they won't internalize it. If children are introduced to fine things, they will develop towards that direction. I was tremendously lucky to have read valuable things, not invaluable ones. Law is only about material things, but if someone causes harm in another person's



soul, in their morals, if they steal from others mentally, psychologically, why aren't those things punishable? Material loss is much easier to rectify than the damage that was done in somebody's soul.

*Many don't think that faith and science are reconcilable. You are deeply religious and also a man of science, what do you think about it?*

The world wasn't created by chance, because only nothing can come out of nothing. This is a basic principle of nature. From the aspect of spiritual development, I think that humanity has been a believer and it is still a believer today. Even atheists believe, they believe that there is no God. A long time ago there existed a normal balance between faith and material things; I find the plague outbreak of 1343-44 to be a key moment in this regard. It is also a good example because thanks to literature it is very clearly palpable what went on in the souls of the people when 30-40% of the European population died. In poetry, Boccaccio turned toward material things and the „pleasures“ that can be derived from them, whereas Petrarch preferred spiritualism, and in between the two stood Dante. By this time, decadence had already started to unfold continuing into the age of renaissance. Christian scientists came, Descartes or Newton. The latter one, having been a deeply religious individual, wanted to interpret the Bible all his life, and by the way, he also wrote down a few basic laws of mechanics. But Newton's laws were projected to areas of thought that are outside of the field of mechanics. Due to his laws, the mind and rational thinking have come into prominence and become the central ideas of Enlightenment. That's why God was no longer needed. All this came to a climax in the French Revolution – the most brutal revolution of the world. The world has been singing its praises since, the three deceitful catchwords that exclude one another a priori. Then Nietzsche stated that “Der Gott ist tot” (*God is dead – editor*) and the “isms” began to appear. Nationalism, Darwinism, then came socialism and Nazism and the world kept going “using rationale”, without God. We couldn't catch creation in the act all the way until Becquerel (*Antoine Henri Becquerel – Nobel Prize winner French physicist - editor*) discovered isotopes in 1896. He wrote down that isotopes lose half of their mass in a given period of time which time period is different for each isotope but characteristic of each. But he couldn't say in advance which half was to be lost, and nobody can tell today, either. Why not, though, if we can explain everything using rationale? So, this is where the theory of the lack of God first failed, because Creation could be caught right in the act. Then along came Mathematics, Gödel's theorem states that any mathematical formulae can be refuted with another formula. So, the world is not cognoscible, therefore it couldn't have come about on such basis.

*Many people would reply to this that there certainly is a scientific explanation; we just do not know it yet.*

Then let me ask this: how is the human brain able to get to know the operation of the human brain?

*How?*

It isn't. We will never reach complete knowledge. Once Heisenberg (*Werner Karl Heisenberg – Nobel Prize winner German physicist - editor*) was asked about how the world

was built up. He replied it was made up of atoms, the atoms made up of protons, neutrons, and electrons and so on, but we are not able to detect the smallest particles, we can only calculate those. So, we're eventually left with a mathematical formula. Like the basic unit of the building process, it is a thought. And the Bible begins with "From the first he was the Word." Atheists doubt the purpose of Creation, but if our actions are only lead by our instincts of self-preservation and procreation then they can't measure up to being called worthy of human quality. We practically don't know anything about consciousness, or the psyche. Nothing. I went to school with Zoli Janka, he is a brilliant professor of psychiatry in Szeged, and I asked him once what the soul was. He thought about it for a while and then said that it was the supportive tissue of the brain. But I'm not interested in the supportive tissue; I care about what the soul *really* is. But nobody can answer this question.